With compts.

ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1921.

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The Rothbury Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1921.

ROTHBURY,

6th March, 1922.

To The Chairman (T. C. Fenwicke-Clennell, Esq.)
Lord Armstrong, and Gentlemen,

Allow me to present you with this, my 25th Annual Report, for the year ending 31st December 1921.

Your District embraces 166,959 acres. According to the Census taken in June, there are 1194 houses, inhabited by 5,054 persons of whom, 2,515 were Males, and 2,539 Female, according to the last Census, there were 4,606. In our House inspection of 1912, we found this and the number of Houses quite inaccurate. We found the population at least 4,700 and the houses at least 1123. It should also be noted, that there were 438 visitors included.

The Rateable value of your District, at March 1921, was, for Guardians purpose, £82,726, and the assessable value £60,733. For District purposes, it was £54,261. At a rate of 1/6 in the £, there was raised the sum of £3,991 for the Rural District Council, and at 5/- in the £, the sum of £13,428. This however, covers the contribution to the County Council rate of £12,143, leaving £2,905 for local purposes. With the Urban £1,620, makes the entire Union contribute £15,048, against last year's £11,497. (The County covers, Education, Asylum, Police, Roads etc.). A rate of 1d in the £, realizes about £210.

The amounts of your Indebtedness are: the **Workhouse** built in 1905 cost £5,180 with 40 years to pay off in, now stands at £1,736. There is 19 years to run, and paid off each year, £148 of Capital, and £60 of interest. The **Cemetery,** upon a part of the District, with the Urban, was formed in 1897, at a cost of £1,580, with 30 years to run, there are only 8 left. The amount of debt due from the Rural part of the Parish, stands at £215, there is paid yearly £32 Capital, and £8 interest, until 1925. A rate of 3d in the £ is levied.

At the **Workhouse** during the year, there was an average upon the books of 14 persons, 7 being Males, 6 Females, and 1 child. There were also 14 Feeble minded young women belonging to Newcastle and paid for from there. The casuals numbered 553, (against 208 of last year), these being, Males 531, Females 15, and 7 children. **Out door Relief** was given to 32 persons, 18 adults and 14 children, at a total cost of £465. Last year was to 27 persons, and cost £306.

The number of **Births,** that occurred in the District, during the year, was 102, but one being to a stranger, left 101 belonging to it. There were none transferred in. Last Year it was 98. This is at a rate of 20·0, that for England and Wales being 22·4, the lowest on record except 1920. There were 49 Males, and 52 Females; and they were born, during the first quarter, 26; the second, 28; the third, 20; and the last, 27. There were 8 born out of wedlock, who survived their Infancy. Successful vaccination was obtained in 89 per cent of these, against 91·0 per cent of 1919, and 83·5 of 1920. There was a large decrease of 10 in the Alwinton district, from 23 to 13; a slight decrease in the Netherwitton; and a slight increase in all the others. All Births should be notified to the County Medical Officer, at South Granville House, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The County Council have a Lady Health visitor residing in Rothbury. Miss Lyall.

The number of **Deaths** registered in the District, was 63, which is at a rate of 12·6 per 1,000 per annum. Of these, 3 did not belong to the district, deducting these, leaves 60 who did. To these however, must be added 6, who belonging the district, died away from it. This makes a net 66 residents. This is at a rate of 13·2. Last year, there were 64 with a rate of 14·0. Your average

has been about 12·5. That for England & Wales, is 12·1' the lowest on record. Of these 66 deaths, 33 were Males' and 33 Females. They occurred during each month, as follows: January 3, February 1, March 4, April 3, May 6, June 8, July 8, August 4, September 7, October 4, November 10 and December 8. They occurred at the following age periods; under one year (in infancy), 6; from 1 to 2, 0; from 2 to 5, 1; from 5 to 15, 2; from 15 to 25, 2; from 25 to 45, 6; from 45 to 65, 18; and above 65, 31 this being nearly one half of the total deaths. Of these 31, 5 were under 70, 17 others were were between 70 and 80 years of age, 9 others being over that, the eldest was a female aged 92.

The following table records the 1921 Census of population in each of the Ecclesiastical Parishes, or parts of them, that are comprised in your District, together with the number of Births, and Deaths that occurred in them, and the rate as per thousand, based upon their populations.

	Population	D'ths	Per 1000 Rate	B'ths
ROTHBURY (Rural part of Parish)	1515	18	12·0	32
ALWINTON	886	15	16·95	13
WHITTINGHAM	781	10	12·82	18
LONGFRAMLINGTON	531	13	24·5	12
ALNHAM & BRINKBURN ...	414	5	12·04	11
CAMBO & ELSDON	580	3	5·17	11
LONGHORSLEY & N'WITTON ...	347	2	5·8	5

As the rate for the whole district is 132, it follows that Longframlington heads the mortality list, with a rate 24·5, next Alwinton with 16·95. The lowest being Cambo and Elsdon with only 5·8. Last year, Rothbury Rural was heaviest.

The Population of the whole Parish, includes the Urban with 1682, and the above Rural part of 1,515 is 3,197, (many of whom were visitors). That for the entire Union, includes the whole Rural District 5054 added to Urban 1,682—6,736. As the number of Births was 101, and the Deaths 66, it follows, that the difference of 37 was naturally added to the population. This is at a rate of 7·4, as against 7·1 of last year; whilst that for England & Wales, is about 12·0.

Of the 101 children born, it appears, that 6 died before reaching the age of one year, thus, in Infancy. This is at a rate of 60 per 1,000 born ; last year, the rate was 80·1, and your average 75·0. That for England & Wales is 83·0. The Causes of these deaths, were as follows : Broncho-Pneumonia, Hydrocephalus, Spina Bifida, Convulsions, Whooping Cough, Gatro Entiritis, one being due to each. Three were in the Rothbury Rural District, the others equally distributed. All of the eight born out of wedlock, survived their Infancy.

Under the usual **Epidemic** or Zymotic class of diseases, there was only 1 death, in the Infant mentioned above, due to Whooping Cough. This is at a low rate of only 0·2 per thousand, your average being 0·6 **Influenza** did not cause any deaths. **Pneumonia,** caused 3, in An Infant mentioned above, and a male aged aged 81 in the Rothbury Rural area, and a female aged 60 at Harbottle. These occurred during the months of March, June and May respectively.

Phthisis (Tubercular disease of the Lungs), caused 2 deaths. This is a rate of 0·40 against 0·70 of last year, and your average of 0·80 for the last 13 years. The rate for England & Wales is about 1·12. They were both Males ; one aged 60 at Langframlington it being found in his family The other, a discharged Soldier aged 22 at Thropton. Instructions were sent, and advice to disinfect the rooms. Other forms of Tuberculosis did not cause any deaths. **Cancer** was the cause of 12 deaths ; 6 being males, and 6 females. Seven were internal, being adnominal, and 5 were more external, 2 of swallow pipe, 1 of jaw, 1 of palate, one on chest. Five were over 65 years of age, 4 of these being over 70 years. The others ages varied from 36 to 64. As regards residence, 4 were in the Alwinton district, 2 in the Rothbury Rural, 2 in Whittingham, and one in each of the others. One belonging to the Whittingham died in the Union House. The friends were asked to disinfect the rooms afterwards. This is a large increase upon the four of last Year, and your average of 4. During the last 14 years there have been 48.

Meningitis, with Mumps, caused that of a Male aged 55 at Whittingham. **Organic Heart disease,** caused 10, your average being 9. One was only 9 years

of age, another aged 63, the rest being all over 65; 6 being over 70, and one over 80. Bronchitis and other diseases of the chest (than mentioned), did not cause any deatns. **Liver Cirrhosis** caused 1, a male aged 56. **Nephritis** caused 3, all over 67 years of age. **Puerperal Ebolism,** 1 in a female aged 31 at Longframlington. **Malformations** at Birth 2. **Violent deaths** accounted for 5, Two by drowning, 1 a Scald in an Infant, Cut hand and blood poisoning 1, a fall and fractured Skull in a male belonging to Longframlington, at the Royal Infirmay. Inquests were held concerning these. **Suicide** did not account for any. **Other defined diseases** caused 8. **Apoplexy** 7. **Senile decay** 7, the oldest being 93.

There were 6 who belonged to your District, but dying away from it. were **tranferred to it,** and are included above. Of these 3 died in the Union House, all Males, and aged 70, 75 and 84, years of age, one of Cancer. A boy belonging to Unthank, being scalded, was taken to Berwick Infirmary and died there. A Male belonging Unthank. died at Glanton of Gall stones; and a male aged 61 from Longframlington, fell on his head and fractured his skull; he died at Newcastle Infirmary. Whilst 3 died in the District, who did not belong to it, and these were transferred to their own districts. They belonged to Newcastle and Gateshead, 2 males and 1 female. Two died of Heart disease, a 1 of Diabetes.

The only **Institution** for sick persons in your district, is the Conjoint Hospital for Infectious diseases near Whitton. It has not been used for Sick patients for several years, and the Caretaker having left, the Committee in November, decided to close the same. There is a great difficulty in getting a Caretaker. There are 3 Beds for Small Pox cases in the old part, and 8 in the new, for other illnesses.

The **Workhouse,** is in the Urban district (see also page 2). There were 5 deaths here during the year. One was of the feeble-minded women belonging to Newcastle. The other 4, all males, aged 24, 70 75 and 84. The causes death being, Phthisis, (a casual), Gastritis, Cancer, and Senile decay. Two belonged to the Whittingham district, and 1 to Whiteburn Shank.

The **Cottage Hospital** is also in the Urban District, and during the year received 10 Patients belonging to both, and 31 Convalescents from outside the district. One died there.

Under the **Notification of Infectious Diseases Act,** there were only 19 cases reported, against 22 of last year. These consisted of Scarlet Fever 7 cases, (against 13 of last year), Diphtheria 7, Erysipelas 3, Cerebro Spinal Fever 2. There were not any deaths. Of the 7 cases of **Scarlet Fever,** 2 were males and 5 females ; there were none under 5 years of age, while one was 65. There were 2 outbreaks, the first was at Alnham School House. A young woman aged 21, came on a visit from Cartmel on December 28th 1920, where it was prevalent. she took ill with it on January 6th. The Master then left the house, being kindly taken in at Scrainwood. The patient was to some extent, isolated ; but the Master's son took it, on January 23 in spite of this, he was aged 5. It broke out at Milkhope on January 8th, here, 4 more were affected. It is quite possible there was a connection between these two, through a dance at Alnham. Isolation and disinfectants were used, and it did not spread. The other outbreak, was at Kirkhill, in a young Girl aged 10 years, on June 16th on visiting, I found, the family came from Haydon Bridge on June 9. At this house, an Aunt had it on May 12, and was sent to a fever Hospital, and did not return to the Kirkhill, until June 29th. Isolation and disinfectants were used, and no further cases occurred. The houses were disinfected ; instructions being given and sent. Of the **Diphtheria,** there were also 2 outbreaks. The first was in the Thropton School area. A child attending here came from Low Trewhitt to Silverside, on May 12th, and next day, developed the illness. The other children were beside this one at School. They were all over 5 years of age, one being 20. I visited at the houses and School, and advised all care and disinfection to the Lavatories, etc., and to watch cases of Sore throat. There were no unsanitary conditions. It was conveyed to Thropton, Snitter, High Trewhitt, and Cartington. The other outbreak, was at Alwinton in a young woman aged 20, on November 10th. Your inspector did not find anything to cause it, and there was no history of Infection. Isolation and disinfectants were used, and it did not spread. **Erysipelas** was notified in 3 cases, in different parts of the district. Two were females, and 1 male, and

the ages, 10, 67 and 69. It occurred twice on the face, and 1 on the arm. The Water supply at Westerheugh needed protection, the agents attention being called to this.

The **Influenza** never completely away from us, now and again takes on a more infectious and active form. It kept doing this in different parts, at times becoming all but an Epidemic. Doubtless those not protected by recent attacks were chiefly affected, also weather conditions may help. Bronchitis has frequently accompanied it, and a few cases of Pneumonia, when it is highly infections. People should not visit affected houses, even if only said to be colds. There were no deaths, and it did not call for School closure.

Pneumonia, as mentioned caused 3 deaths, these were all far apart, and there was no indication of any Epidemic.

Phthisis (Tuberculosis of the Lungs), was notified in 2 persons. One, a Male aged 64, at Fongframlington. It exists in his family. He died next day. Instructions being sent. The second, was a Female aged 71 at Yetlington, who was removed to the Union House, instructions being sent. Of three other person previously reported two, a Male and Female, were persons previously reported now able to get outside, and the other, a male, has left the district, being improved.

No cases of **other forms** of Tuberculosis have been notified. No Tuberculosis in Animals has been reported to me. There were not any case of Ophthalmia in new born Infants, either.

Bacteriological Examinations were made by the County Medical Dept, for reports upon in 13 Specimens sent from the district from 11 persons. Of these, 5 were positive, and 8 Negative. They included 5 of Tuberculosis, 1 being positive, and 4 negative; while for Diptheria, 8 specimens from 7 persons, 4 were positive and 4 negative.

The Returns of Infectious Diseases notified to me during each week are regularly tabulated and sent by me to the Ministry of Health, and the County Medical Officer.

There were no proceedings taken before the Magistrates. Under the **Factory and Workshops** Act, One of the Saw Mills has been removed from Sharperton to Harbottle. There are Factories also Whin and Limestone Works at Ritton White House. There are about 28, more or less, Workshops in the District as previously reported. 2 Blacksmiths, after notice, have lime-washed their walls. Two still need it. One left the Peels and another (Slack) has taken his place. Also, Robinson has taken the late Arris' place at Snitter ; this needs limeing. The Joiner at Thropton has taken two partners, and 2 apprentices. We made 42 visits. Wintrip, the son, has taken the place of his father, deceased, at Warton. And the Gray's at the Wood Hall, (Tailors), have succeeded their father, also deceased.

Under the **Dairy and Cows Sheds Act,** besides the two previous large sellers to the district, there are now added 4 large Dairy purveyors to Newcastle, in the district. They are (1.) **Little Tosson,** (Jamieson), here 30 Milk Cows are kept, and they send 48 gallons daily to Heaton, by train from the Rothbury Station. Here a Ram has been installed, and good spring water is pumped up from Wolvershiels. The utensils are washed and kept clean. The Byres well paved, drained, cemented, light, and spouted. A little close air at the Byre near the house, and a sink and drain is to be installed there. The rest in good order (2,) At the **Glebe,** (J. Mackenzie) has 9 Cows, and send 19 gallons daily by train to Newcastle. there is good water supply, and all in order. Utensils &c., kept clean, and Milk cooled as above. (3,) **Wingates Moor.** (Ions), keeps 16 Cows, and sends away 40 gallons from Ewesley Station, daily. Utensils &c., all kept clean. Has 2 large Byres, in good order ; good water supply and drainage. (4,) **Wester Heugh,** (R. Hopper), has 17 Cows, and sends 16 gallons daily to Newcastle from the Brinkburn Station. All Utensils &c., kept clean and washed. Two Large Byres, well drained, ventilated, spouted. The Water supply needs better protection, and Byres re-limed. Of those previously supplying the district, mostly Rothbury Urban district. At **Snitter Lane,** (R. Carmichael) has 14 Cows, and sends 130 Quarts daily to 160 Customers, chiefly in Rothbury. At the **Wag Tail,** (W. Carr), has 8 Cows, and sends in 20 Quarts to 30 Customers. Both have good water

supplies, and all kept clean, good byres and drained. At Long Framlington there are a few smaller Diaries. The chief are **Pringle,** with 3 Cows, sends out 4 Quarts, needs limeing. **Dixon,** not in good order, needs sink and drain, walls limed, roof attention, and manure heap shifted; he sends out about 4 quarts to 8 customers. **Anderson's** needs much attention. Others keeping 1 are not too well kept. There were no Tuberculosis Cows reported, and no mother asking for Milk from the Council. We made 22 visits.

The **Slaughter Houses**, a new one (Cairns), has been used at Long Framlington. A Wood shed, paved with sleepers, fairly well drained, needs limeing to the Walls; has outside drain and sink. Water supply available. The old one at Whittingham is kept in order. No Tubercular or unsound meat has been exposed that we hear of. There is no special meat Inspector.

The **Elementary Schools** in your district are 17, with accommodation for 1023 children. There are 679 upon the Registers (343 boys and 326 girls), against 601 of last year. The Water supply at Windyhaugh needs better protection. At Fontburn the out offices need attention. At Bilsmoor, the Mistress has provided herself with a good 2 Roomed Wooden Cottage with conveniences. The only School closure called for was at Long Framlington on September 5th, for Mumps and Whooping Cough.

The **Public Water Supplies.** At Long Framlington, your Inspector has given a good deal of time and care. Bursts have been located and repaired. Washers also. Some still require watching. It is hoped, a shortage is now rectified. The **Great Tosson** springs, have now been conveyed in 15 inch pipes to Tynemouth, by their Water Committee, passes about 30,000 gallons per hour, it joins the Fontburn supply at Seaton Delaval. At **Fontburn,** the reservoir holding 720,000,000 gallons, during this dry summer, fell from 80 feet deep, to only 58. It was full again and running over at the end of the year. It passes in an 18 inch pipe about 2,500.000 gallons daily. An overflow of 1,500,000 gallons passes daily into the River, and an average in wet weather, of 2,560,000 gallons passes into the Lake reservoir from the stream inlet. The Thropton supply is good, and at Harbottle.

The **Public Sewers** exist at Thropton, Snitter, Elsdon, Netherton, Harbottle, and Long Framlington. These seem all in good working order.

Under the **House Inspection Act,** which we completed in 1913, we inspected at least 1123 houses, yet the 1911 Census said there were only 1041. This was evidently faulty. According to the 1921 Census, there are 1194 houses, much nearer the truth, these are inhabited by 5054 persons (438 being visitors), gives a ratio of 4·2 persons per house. We found 102 houses having a proportion of over 2 persons per room. There were then 24 Houses considered by us, as really in so unsanitary a condition, as to be unfit to occupy. There have been 17 rectified, leaving only 7 now, and 2 are in process of rectification. There were also 29 not in good condition, and 7 of these have been put right, leaving 22.

Under the **Housing of the Working Classes Act,** under our 1914 report, there 769, out of our 1123 inspected, (now Census of 1921—1194 Hcuses), that would be placed at a rental of below £16 a year in value, hence of the working class type, they contained from one to five rooms each. Over 103 showed on average of over 2 persons per room.

The general death rate is 12·0 ; Tuberculosis rate 0·82 ; Infant mortality 75·0. At the Lee Sidings, 12 new Cottages have been erected. As mentioned the number unfit to occupy was 24 ; in a less unsanitary condition 29. Of these, 17 have been rectified. Notices were served in connection with these 53 houses ; and in 24 cases, the Owners have put them in order. Under the Public Health Act, 6 were rendered fit by the Owners. At Callaly Cottages have been constructed, and 1 at Long Framlngton N. end ; all in good order. If the visitors taking over Cottages &c. for temporary dwellings could be arrested, I do not find any urgent need of more such. Your Council have not formed any Housing Scheme, and the Ministry of Health, aftes due enquiry, are also satisfied that there is no urgent need.

Special Inspections were made as follows. At **Long Framlington** a water shortage existed, but

largely rectified. A w.c. soil pipe properly ventilated. A blocked drain opened out. Washers defective put right and escapes of water stopped except in one instance. A new butcher's business started with fairly good accommodation. Rain downspout sink and drain put in, and another needed. Old cesspit hole drained away. Good new house built in sanitary order. Improvements at Cow Byres needed. At the **East and West Wilkwood** visited, found as before in very unsanitary condition, now in hand. **Ritton White House,** a very good deal of general building and sanitary repairs have done. 2 very old blocks of houses are nearly demolished. At **Thropton Hill** Cottage, the East and passage Walls are very damp; these should be stroothed, and soil removed from them, with cementing so far up.

Improvements have been effected as above. Water supplies have been laid by pipe from a Spring, at Mr. Blakey's at Netherton Buildings, house and Cottages. **Great Tosson,** the same to the Glebe House. At **Little Tosson,** as mentioned, by a good Ram from Wolvershiels. A Drain has been laid at Hartington from Stable &c. The unsanitary bothey has been removed at Whitton. At **Greenlaw** Ash Midden and Privy emptied.

Requirements, as above, Lee Colliery Sidings, much Sanitary needs. East and West Wilkwoods, Long Framlington old Colliery Cottages. Healey Cote drain, in hand. Font Burn School out offices. Burradon proper sanitary drain laid, and old one opened out. Open ash middens roofed over, and rain from Privy roof turned out thereby. Elsdon Check Gate, sanitary needs. Great Tosson Glebe house, sanitary arrangements. Wholope the same. The Official end of the war was declared on August 31st 1921,

Your Inspector (Mr. Clarkson) regularly goes over portions of the district, reporting to the Board each meeting, and has given attention to all the above.

I am indebted to Miss Hudson of Cragside, for the following particulars concerning the Rainfall &c. taken at Cragside, 405 feet above sea level :—

		Rainfall in inches	Number of Wet Days	Hours Sunshine
JANUARY	...	5·03	17	41
FEBRUARY	...	0·46	5	62
MARCH ...	...	1·34	18	110
APRIL	...	0·79	10	88
MAY ...	...	2·34	14	112
JUNE ...	..	0·52	6	175
JULY ...	...	1·87	11	151
AUGUST ...	...	4·54	21	108
SEPTEMBER	...	1·91	9	145
OCTOBER ...	...	2·61	8	111
NOVEMBER	...	3·25	18	71
DECEMBER	...	2·07	16	51
TOTALS	...	26·73	151	1230

Thus the amount of only 26·76 inches, was much below your average of 32·70 inches for the year. From February to August very little fell, thus the latter 4 months were quite wet. The number of wet days 151 was also of course below your average, 170; and the hours of sunshine 1230 against 1425

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health

Snaith & Company, Printers, Rothbury.